

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This claim listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Claim Listing:**

- 1-15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently amended) A method for providing a modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide with reduced side effects of splenomegaly and depletion of platelets when administered to a mammal, ~~the method comprising modifying all wherein the C and/or G of each CpG dinucleotide, and only the CpG dinucleotide, dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide wherein the is modified CpG comprises with a 2'-O-methyl C and/or G; and administering the oligonucleotide to the mammal,~~ wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene for which inhibition of expression is desired, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, and administering the oligonucleotide to the mammal.
17. (Currently amended) A method for providing a modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide with reduced side effects to an individual with a disease caused by aberrant gene expression, ~~the method comprising modifying all wherein the C and/or G of each CpG dinucleotide, and only the CpG dinucleotide, dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide wherein the is modified CpG comprises with a 2'-O-methyl C and/or G; and administering the oligonucleotide to an individual having the disease,~~ wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene that is aberrantly expressed, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, and administering the oligonucleotide to an individual having the disease.
18. (Currently amended) A method for reducing side effects of a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide administered to a mammal, comprising:
  - (a) modifying all the C and/or G of each CpG dinucleotide, and only the CpG dinucleotide, dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide wherein the modified CpG comprises with a 2'-O-methyl C and/or G; and
  - (b) administering the oligonucleotide to the mammal,

wherein administration of the modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide results in fewer side effects than the administration of an unmodified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide.

19. (Currently amended) A method for reducing side effects of a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide comprising modifying ~~all the C and/or G of each CpG dinucleotide, and only the CpG dinucleotide, dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide wherein the modified CpG comprises with a 2'-O-methyl C and/or G.~~